

2. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a period thereof; and  
a key receiver for receiving a key for unlocking the content.

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6. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said terminal further comprises second comparator comparing an effective period of time with the present time and determining whether the present time is within the effective period of time.

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9. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage medium which contains content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the period;

and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the content when the present time falls within said period.

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12. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A self-contained computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads an interval period, stored on the computer-readable medium, indicating a period of time during which content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time;

judges that the present time falls within the period or falls outside of said period; and  
a requestor for submitting a request for the content if the judging determines the present time data falls within said period, to a center for obtaining use of the content.

13. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads an interval period, stored on a self contained computer readable content medium indicating a period of time during which content stored on the content medium can be served;

a clock for indicating a present time;

a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the period of time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for the content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present time falls within the period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the content.

15. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading an interval period stored on a self contained independent computer readable medium indicating a serving period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period of time; and

requests to a center for obtaining the content when the comparing determines that the present time falls within the period of time.

16. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a content on a self contained independent computer readable storage medium, the medium including an interval period concerning the content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the period;  
generates present time data indicating a present time;  
compares the period with the present time;  
an accessor accessing said program; and  
a requestor for submitting a request when the period is compared with the present time  
and it is determined that the present time falls within said period, the request made to a center for  
obtaining use of the content..

17. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A self contained independent computer readable  
storage medium comprising:  
a content stored on the medium assessable by a user via a computer;  
period data stored with the content on the medium indicating an interval period of time  
during which the content can be accessed by the user;  
a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the content by the user if a  
present date falls outside of the period of time indicated by the period data; and  
a requesting unit for submitting a request when said program does not cause the  
computer to refuse access to the content, the request submitted to a center for obtaining use of  
the content.

18. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with  
a computer program which performs the following operations:  
reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating an interval period of time during which a  
content on the disk can be served;  
generates present time data indicating a present time;  
compares the period with the present time; and  
transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize  
the content, when the present time falls within the period; and  
requests to a center for obtaining use of the content when said comparing step  
determines that said present time falls within said period.

19. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading a period stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating an interval period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period; and

requesting to a center for obtaining use of content stored on the medium storing the period to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present time falls within said period.

20. (TWICE AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a period stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating a period of time during which a content stored directly on the content medium released to end users can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.

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22. (TWICE AMENDED) An independent self contained computer readable storage medium released to end users which contains content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein said program:

reads the period directly from the storage medium;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the period; and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the content if the judging judges that the present time falls within said period.

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